

Listing of Claims:

1-4 (previously canceled)

5. (previously added)

A test kit comprising radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃, unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ and instructions for the measurement of vitamin D binding proteins in urine as a marker for salt sensitivity in individuals.

6. (Previously added)

A method of determining specific 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in a urine sample comprising the steps of:

- (1) collecting multiple identical samples of urine from an individual;
- (2) adding a known amount of radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ to all samples in step (1);
- (3) adding a known amount of excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D to half of the samples prepared in step (2) to compete with radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ for binding proteins in the urine;
- (4) incubating all samples prepared in steps (2) and (3) to allow radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ binding to proteins in the urine;
- (5) incubating samples prepared in step (4) with buffered dextran-coated charcoal, then centrifuging to precipitate the unbound radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃;
- (6) measuring the average radioactivity in each sample;
- (7) subtracting the average radioactivity in the samples containing excess unlabeled 25-hydroxy vitamin D had been added in step (3) with those to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxy vitamin D had been added to determine vitamin D binding proteins in the urine with the amount of binding to samples prepared in step (3) acting as a standard for amount of binding in the samples to which 25-hydroxy vitamin D has not been added.

7. (currently amended)

The method of claim 3 6 wherein the sample tested is human urine.

8. (currently amended)

The method of claim 3 6 wherein high 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in the urine is deemed indicative of salt sensitivity or predisposition to salt-associated hypertension.

9. (previously added)

The kit of claim 5 lacking antibodies to 25 hydroxyvitamin D.

10. (previously added)

A method of calculating specific 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in urine samples of an individual by subtracting binding in samples in the presence of both labeled and excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ from binding in samples containing only labeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ but to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D has been added to determine salt sensitivity.

11. (currently amended)

The kit of claim 4 5 containing, additionally, dextran coated charcoal.